



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AUSTIN TEXAS
INTER-OFFICE**

#03-011

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Barbara Keir, Director **(Original Signed)**
Division of Public Health Nutrition and Education
Bureau of Nutrition Services

DATE: February 14, 2003

SUBJECT: 2003 Texas Department of Health conferences

Due to critical budget shortfalls facing the State of Texas, the Texas Department of Health is canceling most of the conferences planned for 2003. The Sixth Annual Texas Breastfeeding Summit and Conference, originally scheduled for October 27-29, 2003 has been cancelled.

The 2003 Texas WIC Nutrition and Breastfeeding Conference (TWNBF) will still be held on April 21-23, 2003. We encourage local agencies to send as many of their staff as possible to this conference. A strong nutrition and breastfeeding program with excellent speakers has been arranged for Texas WIC staff.

We anticipate a larger than usual number of attendees and space is limited. For that reason registration for WIC staff must be completed by March 23, 2003 to reserve a space. After March 23, registration will be open to non-WIC staff.

March 23, 2003 is also the cut-off date for reserving a room at the conference rate at the Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake. The phone number for hotel registration is 1-800/223-1234. Ask to reserve your room at the Texas Department of Health TWNBF conference rate. See memo #03-003, January 24, 2003 for more information and registration form. More information about the conference and the conference brochure can be accessed at www.tdh.state.tx.us/wichd/data03/03003.pdf.

In addition, the April 3, 2003, "On the Road to Excellence: FIT KIDS" teleconference is still on. See memo #03-006, dated January 28, 2003 for more information and registration form. Registration for WIC staff must be completed by March 1, 2003.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Tracy Erickson, Breastfeeding Coordinator, at 512/458-7111, extension 3409 or tracy.erickson@tdh.state.tx.us, or Lynn Silverman, Nutrition Education Consultant, at 512/458-7111, extension 3543 or lynn.silverman@tdh.state.tx.us.